

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04028 071215Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 071200Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1468

S E C R E T JIDDA 4028

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SA

SUBJECT: NORTHROP'S "COMMISSION" PROBLEMS

REF STATE 130976 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE AMBASSADOR EXPECTS TO SEE PRINCE SULTAN TOMORROW EVENING (C. 1600 GMT JUNE 8). AT THAT TIME HE WILL EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND OF THE PRESENT HEARINGS IN WHICH SAUDI ARABIA HAS BECOME INVOLVED (I.E. THEIR GENESIS IN ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY NORTHROP) AND THAT THEY ARE IN NO WAY DIRECTED AT THE SAG BUT ARE THE RESULT OF US LAW AND LEGAL PROCEDURE. THE AMBASSADOR WILL ALSO POINT OUT THAT THE HEARINGS MAY HAVE THE UNFORTUNATE SIDE EFFECT OF GIVING AMMUNITION TO THOSE WHO WISH TO UNDERMINE AND DESTROY CLOSE SAUDI-US COOPERATION. HE WILL URGE THAT PRINCE SULTAN KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN REACTING TO ANY REVELATIONS OF THE CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS.

2. THE AMBASSADOR WILL BRING WITH HIM TO THE MEETING WITH SULTAN THE MAY 23 LETTER FROM GENERAL FISH TO PRINCE SULTAN. HE WILL READ THE LETTER OR AT LEAST EXPLAIN THE CONTENTS OF IT. HE WILL ELICIT AN ORAL RESPONSE FROM SULTAN WHICH MAY BE USED BY DOD AS THE BASIS FOR DISALLOWING PAYMENTS BY NORTHROP TO KHOSHOGGI UNDER PEACE HAWK PHASE IV. DEPENDING ON SULTAN'S REACTION, THE AMBASSADOR MAY LEAVE THE ORIGINAL OF THE LETTER WITH HIM.

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3. IT STRIKES US HERE THAT A LETTER FROM SULTAN TO NORTH-

ROP ON THE SUBJECT OF THE RELATIONSHIP TO KHOSHOGGI AND TRIAD (AND OTHER AGENTS) MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY IN VIEW OF PRINCE SULTAN'S MAY 17 LETTER TO ASST. SEC'Y ELLSWORTH. WE REALIZE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NO INTEREST IN GETTING INVOLVED IN POSSIBLE LITIGATION BETWEEN NORTHROP AND KHOSHOGGI, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE AT LEAST AN INFORMAL OPINION AS TO WHETHER THAT LETTER ALONE MIGHT NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO PERMIT NORTHROP TO TERMINATE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH KHASHOGGI, AT LEAST AS FAR AS FMS CASES ARE CONCERNED.

4. THE AMBASSADOR WILL REQUEST THE PERMISSION OF PRINCE SULTAN TO RELEASE THE TEXT OF HIS MAY 17 LETTER TO ELLSWORTH TO ANY US CONTRACTOR (INCLUDING NORTHROP) WHICH IS INVOLVED IN FMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA AND OBTAIN SULTAN'S ORAL ASSURANCE THAT THIS CONSTITUTES THE OFFICIAL POLICY OF THE SAG AND IS TO BE ADHERED TO IN ALL CASES.

5. WE WILL POUCH TO NEA/ARP BY REGISTERED AIRMAIL THE ORIGINAL OF PRINCE SULTAN'S MAY 17 LETTER ALONG WITH A CERTIFIED TRANSLATION. WE WILL INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE REGISTRY NUMBER.

AKINS

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NNN

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